

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 8, 11, and 23 - 27, are currently active in this case. Claims 13 - 17 have been cancelled and no new matter has been added.

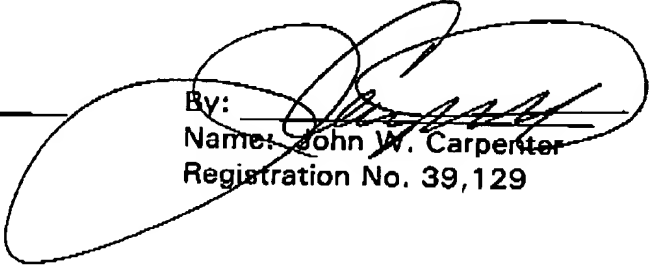
Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR §1.16 or § 1.17 to Account No. 50-2603, referencing Attorney Docket No. 353600.00501.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH LLP

Dated: 2-17-06

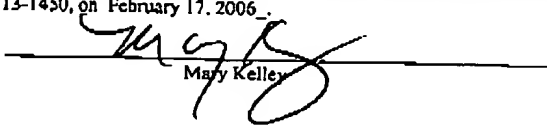
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, US Patent & Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 17, 2006.

Dated: 2/17/2006


Mary Kelley

Amendment

- 6 -

Serial No. 09/771,200